essed and reaffirmed in our ost treasured historical docuents.

n the simple living of that day e application of this resolve to cial and political problems, ile difficult, did not involve ch complexities and confusions at our forefathers were led to ny the validity of their princies. But, since the days of Combia's founders, a mighty upge in the gathering of knowlge and the development of mahines has many times over comlicated human relations.

Impact of Modern World

Technologically, we—who are athered here—and our predecesors of Columbia's first Commencement are separated by the chasm between the ox-cart and he jet engine, between the grist mill and the cyclotron, between a man wresting his own living out of a wilderness farm and the citizen whose livelihood depends on the successful functioning of an entire and complex national economy.

The impact on us of every international fact and crisis is immediate. We are seldom free from anxiety as each day's events crowd instantly upon our attention. Pressure groups often pretend to a moral purpose that examination proves to be false. The vote-seeker rarely hesitates to appeal to all that is selfish in humankind. Ruthless individuals, whether they classify themselves as capitalists, spokesmen of labor, social reformers or politicians, glibly promise us prosperity for our support of their personal but carefully concealed ambitions.

False teachers, who magnify acknowledged errors in the practice of democracy, attempt to destroy our faith in man's right to self-government. As we seek to conserve what is good and sound even while we boldly explore and test new ways, we are belabored by the demagogues of right and

dom and wide avenues of ex sion so that he may win for self, his family and his cou greater material comfort, and happiness; greater spiri satisfaction and contentment.

When even the rudiments knowledge were possessed by o a privileged few, when man's a palling ignorance handicapp his participation in governmen there was ground to believe tha an all-powerful state had to rul each subject's life from the cradle to the grave. That ground has diminished with each year of our Republic's existence. None remains today. The free individual has been justified as his own master; the state as his servant.

Partnership of the West

In World War II, we Americans welded into a cooperative unit the enterprise, initiative, spirit and will of many million free men and women; we crossed the oceans and, joined with our Allies, crushed two regimented tyrannies whose power was frightening; at the same time, we rescued from industrial disaster an ally whose Communist economy, we are now told, is the only means to a world of plenty.

This class graduates almost of the fifth anniversary eve of the greatest tactical operation of the war. D-Day was possible only because of the resolution of 140,000,000 Americans to preserve some of the things they held nearest and dearest, their individual liberties and their human dignity.

If, in the tragic waste of war, we could so magnificently prove the strength of our system, founded on human freedom, what challenge is there in the future that we cannot meet? The worker of miracles is team work.

Every American is a free member of a mighty partnership that has at its command all the pooled strength of Western civilization—